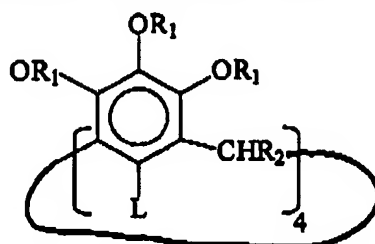


In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) Compounds of formula I



Formula I

wherein at least one R_1 group is H and the remainder R_1 groups are CH_2CO_2K ; R_2 is



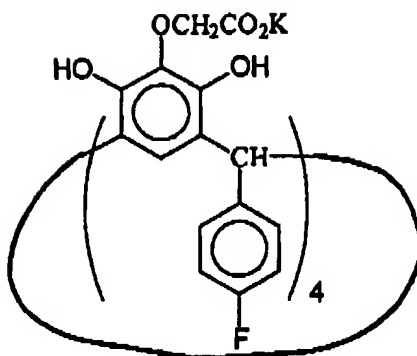
and L is H.

2. (Original) A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 where 4 to 8 of R_1 are CH_2CO_2K , the remaining R_1 substituents are H, R_2 is



and L is H.

3. (Original) A compound of formula II



Formula II

4. (Currently amended) A mixture of compounds of formula I of claim 1, the compounds having different degrees of alkylation.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3, ~~as defined herein~~ together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds according to claim 4, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
9. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or a mixture as claimed in claim 4, together with an anti-viral agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I of claim 1, comprising the steps of
 - (i) reacting aldehyde with HCl and resorcinol;
 - (ii) reacting the product from step (i) with potassium carbonate and ethylbromoacetate in acetone; collecting reaction product and treating with aqueous HCl;
 - (iii) reacting product from step (ii) in ethanol with KOH.
12. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3.
13. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds of formula I of claim 1 having different degrees of alkylation.
14. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3 or a mixture of compounds of formula I having different degrees of alkylation, together with an anti-viral agent.
15. (New) A method of treatment according to any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the viral infection is HIV-1 infection.

Applicants have carefully considered this Application in connection with the Examiner's Action, and respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Pending in the application are Claims 1 – 4, 7 – 9, and 11 – 15. Applicants have cancelled Claims 5 – 6 and 10. Applicants have added Claim 15.

I. **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1 – 2 and 4 – 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 above to specify that “at least one R_1 group is H and the remainder R_1 groups are CH_2CO_2K .” Applicants respectfully assert that any person of skill in the art would understand that the R_1 group being referred to is the R_1 group described in the claim. Applicants also respectfully assert that any person of skill in the art, who has read the application as filed, would understand that in a compound of formula I, when one R_1 group is H, then the remaining 11 R_1 groups are CH_2CO_2K . The compound of formula I is made up for 4 units and accordingly there is a possibility of the compound being fully alkylated, where it would contain 12 alkyl groups. Claim 1 relates to a compound of Formula I which is partially alkylated, i.e. at least one of the R_1 groups is H and the remainder R_1 groups are CH_2CO_2K .

Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner's rejections of Claims 4, 12, and 13 actually pertain to Claims 4, 13, and 14, because Claim 12 does not contain the language “having different degrees of alkylation.” Applicants also assert that Claims 4, 13, and 14 are not indefinite. As described above, a person of skill in the art would understand that the compound of formula I is made up of four units, and that when the compound is fully alkylated, it would have 12 alkyl groups. Thus, in light of the limitations of Claim 1, the skilled person would

appreciate that there can only be a maximum number of 11 R_1 groups being CH_2CO_2K because at least one R_1 group is H.

Claims 5 – 6 have been deleted. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims are withdrawn.

Claims 4, 7, and 11 – 14 have been amended to clarify that formula I is “of claim 1” and formula II is “of claim 3.” Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims have sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been cancelled, and Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim. Applicants also respectfully assert that Claim 8 – 9 do not refer to “formula I” or “formula II” and request the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

Claims 12 – 14 have been amended to clarify that the method of treatment is directed to “viral infection.” Thus, these claims are no longer indefinite because they refer to a specific kind of infection.

In light of these reasons and the amendments made above, Claims 1 – 2, 4, 7 – 9, and 11 – 14 are patentable over 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants have cancelled Claims 5 and 6 above and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harris (WO 95/19974). Claim 10 has been cancelled above. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.